

THOUSANDS SEE DAZZLING PLAZE

Three Plants in Old Ship
Yards Wrecked
by Fire.

HARD FIGHT TO PREVENT SPREAD

R. L. Barnes Safe and Lock Co.,
Boyd Iron Works and Mayo
Barrel Establishment De-
stroyed, Nearby Property
Being Saved—Loss Will
Reach \$90,000.

Thirty thousand people last night
saw a spectacular fire which totally
destroyed the plants of the R. L.
Barnes Safe and Lock Company, Inc.,
the Boyd Iron Works, Inc., and Mayo
& Company, dealers in second-hand
barrels, occupying adjoining sites on
the property of the old Trigg Shipyard,
Dock Street, at the foot of Twenty-
second Street. The plant of the Rich-
mond Cotton Oil Refinery was slightly
damaged, and a saved from total
loss by splendid work on the part of
the fire department. The total loss,
covered partially by insurance, is
estimated at between \$90,000 and \$100,
000.

Thousands View Fire.
The first alarm was turned in at
1 o'clock, and, happening at an hour
when most people were seeking some
form of amusement, attracted one of
the largest crowds which has wit-
nessed a fire in Richmond in years.
Being situated between the City Lock
and the James River, thousands lined
the north side of the waterfront to
gaze upon the scene, while hundreds
of men and boys climbed upon the
viaduct of the Chesapeake and Ohio
Railway over Dock Street to gain a
better view. From Dock Street to
Main, Twenty-second and Twenty-
first Streets were filled with a mass
of humanity, while fully 5,000 people
gathered in Marshall Park to see a
wonderful sight.

Fanned by a light wind, the burn-
ing buildings sent forth a myriad of
sparks, which soared high above head.
Many fell as far away as Broad Street.
Difficulty in stretching lines of hose
was encountered. Four engines were
stationed on the north side of the
dock, while, under the direction of
Chief Jones, the hose wagons were
hurried to the south side. Lines were
laid from the edge of the water to
the buildings, and were carried across
the water to the engines by means of
two.

This was one of the most remark-
able features ever seen in local fire-
fighting, and led the crowd to cheer.
Started in Iron Works.
In the meantime the fire, which had
started in the rear of the iron works,
quickly spread to the Barnes plant
on the east side and to Mayo & Com-
pany on the west.

Flying sparks were endangering sur-
rounding property, and seeing that the
flames had reached the Barnes plant,
most efforts were used to save struc-
tures not then afire. Despite desperate
efforts on the part of the firemen the
building occupied by the old refinery
caught in the rear.

The blaze gave out intense heat
and only the firemen venturing near
even they could stand it but a few
minutes, when each company would be
relieved and the members would beat
a hasty retreat to "cool off" from their
exertions, only to slightly recover,
when they would be called upon to
take the post of others who were suf-
fering.

By persistent hard work the flames
in the refinery were put out without
getting into any of the huge oil tanks,
which endangered the life of every one
nearby.

Two mules, one owned by the iron
works and the other by the refinery,
were burned to death in their stables,
though many animals were saved from
a similar fate by quick work.

Flying Embers Everywhere.
As the walls of the Barnes plant
gave way and the entire building
lapsed, a mass of burning, flying bits
of wood was carried up by the force
draft and sent helter-skelter by the
breeze, to fall hundreds of feet away.
The plant occupied by the Richmond
Structural Steel Company, about 300
feet from the refinery, was at one time
considered in danger.

The flying embers set fire to tele-
graph poles and several freight and
coal cars which were standing on the
tracks of the Southern Railway, dam-
aging one of them to a considerable ex-
tent. It was necessary to direct two
streams upon it before the blaze was
extinguished.

Fireman Cornelius Thompson, of No.
2 truck, narrowly missed being crushed
to death when a burning pole fell as he
was aiding in directing a stream upon
the refinery. The pole barely grazed
his back as it tumbled to the ground.
So close was it that it knocked off his
helmet. He fell to the ground from the
shock, and many thought that he had
been instantly killed. But he at once
arose, picked up his hat and resumed
his duty, without having sustained any
injury.

Just how the fire started could not
be learned. The three buildings, all of
which were owned by the Southern
Railway, were burned to the ground.
Being constructed of wood, covered
with galvanized iron, the frame struc-
tures offered no resistance to the
flames. They were constructed years
ago by the Trigg Company, and after
the suspension of operations by that
concern were acquired by the Southern.

Contents Destroyed.
Their value was not great. Most of
the loss was to the contents, espe-
cially the machinery of the Boyd Com-
pany, whose loss was estimated at
about \$20,000. The damage to the
Barnes Company was said to be be-
tween \$50,000 and \$80,000, and that of
Mayo & Co. about \$4,000, while the
damage to the refinery will be cov-
ered, it is expected, by about \$2,000.

The first alarm was turned in at 7
o'clock from box No. 813, Twenty-
second Street.

(Continued on Second Page.)

MINIMUM WAGE BILL

Measure Passes Commons and First
Reading in Lords—Miners Not Satisfied.
London, March 27.—A fateful day in
the history of British trade struggles
came to a close early this morning
with the passage through Parliament
by a large majority of the bill ex-
tending in legislation the principle
of a minimum wage in the country's
most important industry.

The minimum wage bill passed its
third reading in the Commons by a
majority of 213 to 45 amid
scenes of great excitement. The House
assembled at 2.30 o'clock
to receive the bill, and on motion of
Lord Herschell it passed its first read-
ing.

After a strike lasting nearly a month
and involving the whole coal country
in untold distress the miners have
thus secured recognition of the prin-
ciple which they set out to obtain. But
they are still dissatisfied because the
bill does not specify the amount of the
minimum wage. Thus there is no pros-
pect of any immediate settlement of
the strike.

The government's persistent efforts
to secure an outside settlement col-
lapsed in a most dramatic manner.
Premier Asquith had the greatest dif-
ficulty in getting the owners and the
men to meet yesterday, and it was
only finally on the earliest suggestion
of Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Sec-
retary, that the owners consented to
meet with the men's representatives.

The meeting lasted but a few minutes.
The representatives of the Scotch min-
ers put forward a demand for a mini-
mum of 5 shillings a week for men
and 3 shillings for boys, whereas the
owners, protesting that they were al-
ways being faced by fresh demands,
insisted on a conference, leaving
Premier Asquith to the task of bring-
ing the two sides together.

It was under emotion, the result of
disappointment at this scene, that the
Prime Minister went immediately to
the House of Commons to announce
the failure of the conference in a
speech which evoked the sympathy of
the whole House.

What are the next steps in the
struggle it is impossible to foretell.
By Thursday the minimum wage bill
will have received the royal assent and
become law. In the meantime, the
Miners' Federation and Labor party
will hold meetings to decide upon their
future course.

PROTECT POTASH
President Urges Congress to Enact Law
to Conserve Fertilizer.
Washington, March 26.—President
Taft today sent to Congress a message
urging the enactment of a law to
protect from private entry and ex-
ploitation fields of potash such as
recently were discovered in Southern
California.

The President declared there was
no lawful way at present for him to
protect these mines from entry, and
urged that Congress enact a law to
provide for the maintenance of the
necessary protection in a bill intro-
duced by Senator Smoot on March 5,
1911, which was an amendment to the
withdrawal act that governs entries on
public lands.

The President said that one of the
most important problems faced by agri-
cultural interests of this country was
that of the maintenance of soil fertility.
Potash is an element of the greatest
value in maintaining the fertility of
the soil.

The adequate protection of the beds
already discovered and of those that
may be discovered hereafter, the Pres-
ident said, is a matter of the greatest
importance to the agricultural industry of
the United States and may reduce the
necessity of continuing the present ex-
tensive importation.

DROGGED INTO LIMELIGHT
Liberal Brings "Red Statement" to
Notice of Parliament.
London, March 26.—The statement
published in New York March 16 quot-
ing Whitelaw Reid, American ambas-
sador to Great Britain, as comparing
the present conditions of this country
with those of the United States, was
dragged into the limelight in the
House of Commons this afternoon by
Sir Henry James Dalziel, Liberal
for the Kirkcaldy burghs. Sir
Henry was curious as to the accuracy
of the statement, and wanted Sir Ed-
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Foreign Affairs, to make official
statement on the subject.

Edwin Samuel Montagu, parlia-
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India, on behalf of Sir Edward Grey,
Foreign Secretary, declared that the
latter was sure the statement was not
true. He had not heard of it until
Sir Henry Dalziel sent a copy of it
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Sir Henry Dalziel declared that he
would again refer to the matter at the
first opportunity.

M'REE JURY COMPLETED
Question of Masonry Injected—One
Juror Excused Because of Being Mason.
Opelousa, La., March 26.—The jury
for the trial of the case of the State
of Louisiana against the Grand Jury
McRee for killing young Allan McRee
was completed to-night. Nine of the
jurors are heads of families.

The question of Masonry was in-
jected into the case by the defense
attorneys, the accused being a mem-
ber of the Order of the Eastern
Star and his husband a Mason. Con-
siderable time was expended on this
account in the examination of one
testimony, the court finally excusing
him.

BISHOP YOICHI HONDA DEAD
Head of Methodist Church of Japan
Was Sixty-Four Years Old.
Nagasaki, Japan, March 26.—Bishop
Yoichi Honda, of the Methodist Church
of Japan, died here to-day of typhoid
fever, in his sixty-fourth year.

Bishop Honda was well-known in
Europe and America, where he paid
several visits as a delegate to inter-
national Christian Association confer-
ences, and he also represented Japan
at the World's Y. M. C. A. Union in
France in 1907. He was president of
the Christian College at Tokyo.

STILL UNABLE TO AGREE
Miners and Operators Apparently
Far Apart as to Five-Minute
Cleveland, O., March 26.—Inability to
agree to-day again marked the at-
tempts of the bituminous coal miners
and operators to fix a two-year wage
and working agreement to take effect
April 1 in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio
and Indiana.

The conference adjourned until to-
morrow. Each side stood where it was
a week ago, the miners declaring that
unless they secured a 10 per cent. in-
crease in pay and shorter working
hours they would not work after next
Sunday midnight, when their present
wage expires, and the operators as-
serting they would not grant the de-
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**THREE KILLED AND NINE INJURED
WHEN POLICE FIRE INTO RIOTERS**

Further Trouble Feared, and Illi-
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Rock Island, Ill., March 26.—Three
persons were killed and nine were
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which grew out of strained relations
which have existed for several days
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his opponents.

Several hundred persons were in the
mob that to-night surrounded police
headquarters, where two of the leaders
of disorders that had previously oc-
curred were detained.

Bricks were thrown and windows
of the police station were smashed.
Mayor Schriver, directing the police
squad, ordered the officers to charge
the mob.

Shots were fired by the police, and
a number of men were seen to fall.
This caused the rioters temporarily
to withdraw.

Three men were picked up dead.
Nine were so badly wounded that they

STATE CONVENTION GOES TO NORFOLK

Virginia May Send Un-
instructed Delegation
to Baltimore.

DISTRICT PRIMARY SET FOR JULY 16

To Avoid Multiplying Elections,
City Democratic Committee
May Fix Upon Same Date for
Selecting Members of First
Administrative Board.

Harmonious Meeting.

At a meeting marked throughout by
harmony, the State Central Committee
last night issued a call for a State
Democratic convention to be held in
Norfolk on Thursday, May 23, at noon.

The meeting lasted but a few minutes.
The representatives of the Scotch min-
ers put forward a demand for a mini-
mum of 5 shillings a week for men
and 3 shillings for boys, whereas the
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TAFT SWEEPS NEW YORK STATE

Secures 83 Delegates to
Colonel's Piti-
ful 7.

NEW PRIMARY LAW NOT A SUCCESS

Voting Delayed by Nondelivery
of Ballots, Some of Which
Were Fourteen Feet Long.
Roosevelt Declares His
Inspectors Were
Thrown Out.

A Taft Landslide

New York, March 26.—Today's
State-wide Republican primary
for delegates to the Republican Na-
tional Convention at Chicago re-
sulted in the election of organiza-
tion candidates in practically every
district where there was a contest,
according to unofficial returns, tri-
umphing in many instances, at
hand at a late hour to-night.

Claims that at least eighty-three
of the ninety delegates will be for
Taft and not more than seven for
Roosevelt were made by State
Chairman William Barnes, Jr., and
John W. Barnes, Jr., director of
the eastern branch of the national
Taft bureau.

Chairman Charles H. Duell, of the
Roosevelt city committee, declared
that the primaries, characterized
by a complete breakdown of the
election machinery, and been a
complete failure. He asserted that
would be made by the Roosevelt
committee to "secure a real pri-
mary in this city, with a full ex-
pression of Republican opinion."

"Governor Dix should be called
upon to convene the Legislature in
special session," declared Charles
Duell, in his statement late to-
night, "for the purpose of passing
a presidential primary law so that
there may be an honest expression
of the wishes of the voters. In no
surer way could Governor Dix meet
the wishes of the voters."

Chairman Duell's statement as to
the workings of the primary law
were based in part upon the mix-
up in the distribution of the primary
ballots, which all campaigners said
was the worst within memory here.

Samuel S. Koenig, chairman of the
Republican county committee, al-
luded only briefly to the operation
of the new law.

"The primaries of New York
county gave the voters an oppor-
tunity to express honestly and ac-
curately their preference for a
presidential nominee," Mr. Koenig
declared.

As to the result of the balloting,
Chairman Koenig said:
"With 132 election districts mis-
singing, President Taft in the primary
received 20,402 and Colonel Roose-
velt 14,011. This indicates that the
President has beaten Colonel Roose-
velt in this city by more than two
to one. It was the most remark-
able victory ever achieved by the
organization of volunteers."

The families of the dead men and
themselves in sore straits. Work has
been very slack at the mine. Outside
aid will be asked.

WILL VISIT NEWPORT
Duke of Connaught and Family to
Spend August With Vanderbilts.
Newport, R. I., March 26.—The Duke
of Connaught, Governor-General of
Canada, will spend the month of Au-
gust with his family in this city as
guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Van-
derbilt, Jr.

The German embassy and the Swiss
legation are expected to spend the
summer here, and it is reported that
the diplomatic staffs of some of the
other foreign nations represented at
Washington will come here.

Eight Injured in Mine Explosion.
Bluefield, W. Va., March 26.—A new-
ly opened explosion in the mines of the
Thomas Coal Company at McCombs,
near here, to-day resulted in the in-
jury of eight men, four of them se-
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82 KILLED BY GAS EXPLOSION

Only Ten Men Escaped
From Burning Coal
Mine.

33 BODIES ARE LOCATED

Mine Was Inspected Last Fri-
day and Pronounced Safe.
Investigation Has Not Dis-
closed Cause of Ex-
plosion—Families of Vic-
tims in Sore Straits.

Welch, W. Va., March 26.—Eighty-
two men were killed by a gas ex-
plosion in the Jed Coal and Coke Com-
pany's mine at Jed, W. Va., a half
dozen miles from here. Only eleven
men escaped alive, and cases of those
died within an hour after being
brought to the surface. To-night
thirty-three bodies had been located,
and the rescuers hoped to have them
out shortly. Exploring parties will
have covered all of the mine by 3
o'clock Wednesday morning, and ex-
pect to have all the bodies out by
noon.

The explosion took place before noon,
and probably only the eleven men
working at the foot of the shaft had
chance for their lives. They readily
made their way up the shaft, which
was not damaged, and though some
of the blades of the banjoes were
slattered, they continued to operate,
with the fortunate result that enough air
was present to admit searching par-
ties at once. Less than half an hour
after the news of the explosion had
been communicated to this place, relief
measures were in order. Oxygen
helmet and other appliances were
rushed from the plant of the United
States Coal and Coke Company
nearby. A mine car on rails led
to Huntington, W. Va., was turned
back on telegraphic orders from Wash-
ington and another car was started
here shortly after noon and the ex-
perts immediately conceded that all
in the mine were dead.

Killed Instantly.
State mine inspectors who arrived
promptly organized rescue parties and
began the exploration of the mine. As
the gases were cleared out by the fans
they began search of the lower levels
and immediately began to come upon
miners, killed almost instantly. Other
miners sent experienced fore-
men to lead bands of volunteer
rescuers who flocked to the scene as
the news spread about the country-
side.

The usual scenes of horror and grief
which attend mine disasters were
lacking here to-day. No families of
the miners crowded about the mouth
of the shaft. Women have kept within
their homes, overcome with grief and
distraction.

The mine was inspected last Friday
and pronounced safe. The preliminary
investigations to-day have not dis-
closed the cause of the explosion.
Some local mine men are inclined to
regard it as a physical phenomenon.
Barometers in this vicinity have been
showing unusually low readings for
the last week without the usual at-
mospheric changes.

The families of the dead men and
themselves in sore straits. Work has
been very slack at the mine. Outside
aid will be asked.

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Bluefield, W. Va., March 26.—A new-
ly opened explosion in the mines of the
Thomas Coal Company at McCombs,
near here, to-day resulted in the in-
jury of eight men, four of them se-
riously, but the police had been in-
sured by the mine carrying a large
quantity of powder when a torch set fire to a
bag in which they were carried.

WILL VISIT NEWPORT
Duke of Connaught and Family to
Spend August With Vanderbilts.
Newport, R. I., March 26.—The Duke
of Connaught, Governor-General of
Canada, will spend the month of Au-
gust with his family in this city as
guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Van-
derbilt, Jr.

The German embassy and the Swiss
legation are expected to spend the
summer here, and it is reported that
the diplomatic staffs of some of the
other foreign nations represented at
Washington will come here.

Eight Injured in Mine Explosion.
Bluefield